



## Howard S. Wright Constructors

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August 21, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As a long time Seattle business, located in the South Lake Union (SLU) neighborhood, Howard S. Wright Constructors is very supportive of the Mercer Corridor Project. Our business will be 125 years old next year and has been located in SLU for over 50 years.

As you may know, the SLU area has been growing and growing rapidly. This morning, I counted eight tower cranes in SLU. The University of Washington, Amazon.com, Eddie Bauer, The Gates Foundation and many small businesses have located here in the past decade, fueling the development of large scale institutional, commercial and residential development.

Mercer was a mess before all of this development and is worse now. Business and government leaders have been working for years to fix the problem. Every day, more and more people wait in traffic or clog up neighborhood streets looking for alternate routes. We've already done the heavy lifting with our constituents and we are "shovel ready". What we need now is a fair share of the TIGER funds to get the job done. I'm confident that when you carefully consider the many benefits to be had from building the Mercer Corridor that you will support our grant and help fund the project.

Sincerely,

Steve Mara

President - Howard S. Wright Constructors, L.P.

Cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Council President Richard Conlin